

Retirement credits for vocational teachers' work experience
(HB 788, by C. Evans)

DIGEST:

HB 738 would have allowed vocational teachers with at least ten years of service in public schools to buy retirement-system credit for prior work experience. Work experience creditable for retirement benefits would have been the same as work experience used for salary step increases. Vocational teachers could have bought up to five years credit by paying a fee established in the bill.

GOVERNOR'S

REASONS

FOR VETO:

"This measure discriminates against thousands of teachers who earned their professional standing through years of college and university training. These years of schooling are not counted for either salary step credit or Teacher Retirement System purposes. This measure establishes bad precedent which could be abused in the future."

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VIEW:

Rep. Evans said he had "no idea" why the bill was vetoed, especially since all of the state teachers' groups supported it and the plan was found to be actuarially sound. The college preparation for academic teaching is more general and not as deserving of retirement credit as the work background of vocational teachers, Evans said. He added that he would reintroduce the bill.

Split sentencing and shock probation
(HB 888, by Rudd)

DIGEST:

The bill would have created a new sentencing option known as split sentencing. It would also have extended shock-probation eligibility to include those convicted of murder, aggravated kidnapping, aggravated rape, aggravated sexual abuse, deadly assault on a peace officer, injury to a child, aggravated robbery, bribery, escape, and organized criminal activity.

GOVERNOR'S

REASONS

FOR VETO:

Shock probation should not be expanded to include those convicted of these crimes. Society should deal harshly with these criminals and judges should not be given the option of ordering shock probation in these cases.